

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In each embodiment of this invention, a pairing apparatus has a random pairing module which generates pairings from the first to  $(r_1)$ -th rounds by the random system, and a modified Swiss pairing module which generates pairings from the  $(r_1+1)$ -th to  $r$ -th rounds by the modified Swiss system. When first several matches are paired by the random system, win points are distributed to respective participating teams in accordance with their merits. For this reason, by subsequent pairings of the modified Swiss system, participating teams can be successively paired within a close merit range. Hence, the total win points (ranks) can reflect the merits. For this reason, the reverse phenomenon of merits and ranks can be suppressed without using the round-robin system.